

Service Date: May 3, 1999

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE REGULATION
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MONTANA

* * * * *

IN THE MATTER of the Application)	
of BLACK HILLS CORPORATION d/b/a)	UTILITY DIVISION
BLACK HILLS POWER & LIGHT CO.,)	DOCKET NO. D99.3.69
For Authority to Decrease its Quarterly)	DEFAULT ORDER
Fuel Rate Rider)	NO. 6160

On March 22, 1999, Black Hills Corporation d/b/a Black Hills Power and Light Company (BHP&L or Applicant) filed a petition with the Montana Public Service Commission pursuant to §§ 69-3-101 et seq., MCA, for an order authorizing the Applicant to decrease its electric rates in order to reflect the decreased cost of fuel used in the generation of electricity. The fuel costs concerned are for the months of December 1998, January and February 1999.

On March 25, 1999, the Commission issued a Notice of Opportunity for Public Hearing. A provision in that notice stated, "If, however, no hearing is requested by April 26, 1999, the Commission will consider the matter and a default order may be issued."

Having considered the application and the documentation furnished by the Applicant in support of its application and deeming itself fully advised in the premises, the Commission makes the following Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. If decreased fuel costs for the months of December 1998, January and February 1999, are to be recovered, a credit of \$.00262 must be subtracted from the base fuel cost of \$.01240 approved in Docket No. 83.4.25,

which results in a total fuel charge of \$.00978 per Kwh. The Quarterly Fuel Rate Rider will decrease revenues by approximately \$8,293 below fuel costs authorized in Docket No. 83.4.25.

2. The number of customers presently being served in Montana is 43.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. The Commission has jurisdiction over parties and proceeding in this matter.
2. The resulting rate levels are reasonable and just.

ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

1. The Quarterly Fuel Rate Rider for the billing period of May, June and July 1999 is \$.00262 per kWh. This credit shall be subtracted from the base fuel cost approved in Docket No. 83.4.25.
2. The approved rates shall be effective for electric service rendered on and after May 3rd , 1999.

DONE IN OPEN SESSION at Helena, Montana, on this 3rd day of May, 1999, by a vote of 5 - 0 .

BY ORDER OF THE MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

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DAVE FISHER, Chairman

NANCY MCCAFFREE, Vice Chair

BOB ANDERSON, Commissioner

GARY FELAND, Commissioner

BOB ROWE, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Kathlene M. Anderson
Commission Secretary

(SEAL)

NOTE: Any interested party may request the Commission to reconsider this decision. A motion to reconsider must be filed within ten (10) days. See ARM 38.2.4806.